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LETTER DATED 16 DECEMBER 1996 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CAMEROON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Acting upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, a copy of the note verbale dated 12 December 1996 that Mr. Ferdinand Leopold Oyono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, addressed to the Office of the High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Yaoundé concerning the protest by the Cameroonian Government at Nigeria's implementation of electrification and drinking-water supply projects in Cameroonian territory in the town of Abana, district of Idabato, which is occupied by Nigerian troops.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of members of the Security Council and have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Jean Marc MPAY
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Note verbale dated 12 December 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon addressed to the Office of the High Commissioner of Nigeria in Yaoundé

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Yaoundé and, further to its note verbale of 12 September 1996, in which the Cameroonian Government vigorously protested against the Nigerian drinking-water supply project in Cameroonian territory in the town of Abana (Idabato district), has the honour to request the Office to bring the following considerations to the attention of the Federal Nigerian Government:

While the territorial and maritime frontier dispute between the Republic of Cameroon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria is pending before the International Court of Justice, Nigerian authorities have just put into operation electrification and drinking-water supply projects, which, in spite of protests by Cameroon, they implemented in Abana, a town occupied by Nigerian troops and set up as an administrative unit of the federal Nigerian state of Cross River.

This further act not only constitutes a flagrant violation of the protective measures indicated to our two Governments on 15 March 1996 by the International Court of Justice, but is also contrary to the intention expressed by the Nigerian authorities in September 1996 to the United Nations goodwill mission to work in future for the maintenance of peace on the Bakassi Peninsula pending a judgment by the Court.

While recalling its firm choice in favour of a peaceful settlement through the Court of the dispute between the two States with regard to Bakassi, the Government of the Republic of Cameroon raises a strong protest against this further provocative act, which demonstrates the annexationist desires of the Nigerian State and is likely to disturb seriously the relative calm prevailing in the area. The Cameroonian Government, furthermore, intends to inform immediately all international bodies dealing with the Bakassi matter about this.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon takes this opportunity to convey to the Office of the High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

(Signed) Ferdinand Leopold OYONO